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# **Texas Public Power Association**

August 6, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 670 395 E Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Office of Proceedings

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Re:

Ex Parte No. 670, Establishment of the Rail Energy Transportation

Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Texas Public Power Association (TPPA) is pleased to nominate and recommend Dan Kuehn of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to serve as a member of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) to be established by the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

RETAC is being established by the STB to consist of a broad cross-section of rail service providers, producers, and consumers of energy products. TPPA welcomes the establishment of this Committee, which can serve a very useful purpose in studying and recommending policies and practices that will promote the efficient movement of energy products by rail.

TPPA represents 72 municipally owned electric utilities, plus river authorities, joint action agencies, and other consumer-owned power systems which provide electricity to over 3 million Texas.

Texas remains one of the largest consumers (and producers) of energy in the nation. A growing amount of the electricity produced in Texas (39% in 2005) is generated using coal, a fuel commonly moved by rail. (As you know, over two-thirds of the nation's coal is transported by railroads, which are a key component in the energy supply chain and a key factor in providing reliable, low-cost electricity.)

If selected to serve on RETAC, Dan Kuehn would do an excellent job of representing the interests of not just the 50 public power systems in Texas which get some of their electricity from rail-transported coal, but also the broad interests

of energy consumers of the state, the region, and all public and non-public providers of power.

Dan Kuchn serves as Executive Manager of Wholesale Power Services for LCRA. a public power system that provides wholesale electricity to cooperatives and local municipal utilities serving over a million people in central Texas. As one of the nation's largest public power producers, LCRA has as a central mission providing reliable and affordable electric power, most of which is derived from fossil fuels and domestic coal that is transported long distances by railroad. Electric reliability for LCRA and other utilities in Texas requires dependable rail service to deliver and meet the fuel requirements of coal-fired generating stations.

Dan Kuchn has been intimately involved in the procurement of reliable and cost-effective energy transportation/rail services for over 25 years. Given his knowledge and experience regarding the issues to be considered by RETAC, he would be an valuable member of the committee. Mr. Kuchn is well known and regarded in the industry, and he would help foster an open dialogue among energy producers, railroads, and consumers of energy resources. TPPA respectfully recommends Dan Kuchn for service on RETAC and appreciates your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Mark Zion

Executive Director

Texas Public Power Association



#### Daniel Kuehn

Executive Manager of Wholesale Power Services Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

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#### Summary

Dan Kuchn is Executive Manager of Wholesale Power Services for I CRA, an energy, water and community services provider that generates wholesale electricity for more than 40 electric cooperatives and city-owned utilities in Central Texas. Mr. Kuchn brings more than 25 years of experience in the mineral and energy industries to LCRA and has been instrumental in developing a highly cost-effective approach to procuring fossil fuels and purchased power for LCRA's coal and natural gas power plants.

Mr Kuehn came to LCRA in 1982 to develop local lignite resources as a fuel source for power generation. He was later selected to lead an economic evaluation of fuel alternatives as a result of the entry of a second rail carrier into the Powder River Basin of Wyoming in 1984. Consequently, LCRA abandoned its lignite prospects in favor of PRB coal. Since that time, Mr Kuehn has performed and/or managed a variety of fuel and energy-related functions for LCRA. In 1993 under Kuehn's leadership, LCRA developed and implemented a natural gas price risk management program. LCRA has since expanded its energy risk management program to include electricity and coal by integrating certain key functions and centralizing price decision-making.

Mr. Kuehn's management expertise includes senior leadership and executive management, strategic planning, business and financial planning, negotiations, customer and employee relations, problem solving and conflict resolution. His technical expertise includes fuel planning and procurement, fuel energy risk management, power marketing, cost-benefit analysis, generation asset management and portfolio optimization

#### **Executive Management Responsibilities**

Mr Kuchn reports directly to the Assistant General Manager and Chief Operating Officer—He leads a team of energy professionals who are responsible for LCRA's power plant operations, fuel and energy risk management, pricing and customer relations—Mr Kuchn also oversees strategic fuel planning, rail transportation, natural gas pipeline and storage operations, power acquisition, power marketing, generation desk operations, generation resource planning, market research and analysis, and financial hedging of energy price risk

#### **Recognitions and Honors**

Past President and Executive Board Member - Western Coal Traffic League

**Member** — State of Texas technical review committee for the evaluation and selection of statesponsored Superconducting Super Collider project sites

# **Career Track**

#### Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin, Texas, 1982 - Present

Executive Manager, Wholesale Power Services

Executive Manager, Fuel and Lnergy Risk Management

Manager, Wholesale Energy Irading

Manager, Fuel and Energy Risk Management

Manager, Fuels

Manager, Fuel Procurement

Engineering Supervisor, Fuel Planning

Engineering Supervisor, Mine Planning

Sentor Engineer

Engineer III

### Arch Mineral Corporation, Medicine Bow, Wyoming, 1981 - 1982

Planning Fngineer

Reynolds Metals Company, Bauxite, Arkansas, 1978 - 1981

Mining Engineer

## Education

University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering